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Israel-Lebanon: Israel's newest measures to control fedayeen activities in southern Lebanon are likely to worsen the already unstable situation in that area.

In the most significant of three forays made yesterday, four Israeli tanks and 30 infantrymen entered Lebanese territory for three hours. Tel Aviv described the force that crossed the border as a "preventive patrol." Beirut claims one of its soldiers was killed and six others wounded.

Even before this latest Israeli action, the US Embassy in Beirut estimated that at least 25,000 people had left their villages in southern Lebanon. These refugees are demanding protection from Beirut, and their leaders are proposing a general strike to expose what they see as the government's failure to defend or help them.

Meanwhile, according to the embassy, recent events have caused the fedayeen to feel a new disdain for Lebanese Army orders or threats. This disregard of the army has given the fedayeen greater freedom of movement and has encouraged them to move into the villages vacated by the refugees. Because many of these vacated areas are adjacent to military installations, the possibility has increased for the direct Israeli - Lebanese Army confrontation that Beirut has been at some pains to avoid. [REDACTED]

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UN-Suez: The 100 observers of the UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) along the Suez Canal are coming under increasing fire from the Egyptian side.

Secretary General Thant last week sent Cairo a note strongly protesting the recent artillery, mortar, and air attacks that have hit a number of UN observation posts on the east bank of the canal. He stated that the UN would be obliged to close these posts unless the incidents cease. The US Consulate in Jerusalem has learned that one observation post is being closed--the seventh of the 18 posts along the canal to be shut down in the past year.

Cairo and, occasionally, Tel Aviv have posed problems for UNTSO at the canal but the latest series of events may be the most serious. Egyptian motives are unclear, but Cairo probably finds that the observation posts hinder its military operations in some instances and would not be averse to their removal.

UN headquarters is becoming increasingly disenchanted with prospects for the Suez observer mission as the cease-fire has been violated with impunity. Thant may pull out a substantial number of the observers soon unless the Egyptian firings into the post areas drop sharply. [REDACTED]

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NOTES

Yemen: The expansion of the government to include a number of influential royalist representatives constitutes a major step toward final resolution of the eight-year civil war. Sana radio announced on 23 May that the three-man presidential council had been enlarged by the addition of former royalist foreign minister Ahmad Shami and an influential neutralist republican, Ahmad Numan. Additionally, other royalists were appointed to the cabinet, to the national council (a consultative body), and to some governorships. The proportion of the royalist representation is somewhat smaller than expected, but the reconciliation presently appears to be proceeding smoothly. [REDACTED]

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Norway: Oslo has granted permission to the Viet Cong's Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam to open an information office. The Foreign Ministry emphasized that the informational activity would be private and not regarded as an official office or bureau. Official status is not necessary for such activities in Norway; normal work and residence permits are the only requirements. The Saigon government has not made an official request for an information office, but if it were to do so, Oslo would respond positively. [REDACTED]

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El Salvador - Honduras: The five Central American foreign ministers, scheduled to meet in San José today, will try to reach an agreement establishing a demilitarized zone between El Salvador and Honduras. Continued border incidents highlight the need for such a zone. Arguments over its boundaries and over which security units would remain in the zone, however, have long impeded agreement. Diplomatic and military representatives of both countries have failed to narrow these differences in two weeks of intensive discussions in Washington. Agreement on the zone is a prerequisite for resumption of negotiations on other significant matters, including restoration of diplomatic and commercial relations, resolution of the border dispute, restructuring of the Central American Common Market, and the problem of Salvadoran migration to Honduras.

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